

Quarterly Membership Meeting of the NJ Statewide Network for Cultural Competence

August 19, 2013

The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities

New Brunswick, New Jersey

Attendance:

Members: Rebecca Benjamin (Division on Aging and Community Services/Department of Human Services/DHS), Pamela Gaston (Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired/DHS), Janet Gwiazda (Division of Disability Services/DHS), Carolyn C. Kohlhepp (NJ Family Planning League), Robert Like (Rutgers/RWJMS), Shakira Linzey (Central Jersey Family Consortium), Marion McLaurin (Family Service Association), Nick Montalto (Diversity Dynamics), Sophia Rossovsky (Diversity Experts, Inc.), Zenaida Steinhauer (Department of Health), Sheila Thorne (Multicultural Health Care Marketing Group, LLC), Linda Tondow (American Conference on Diversity), Jagdish Vasudev (United Way of Central Jersey), Shellyann Dacres (The Boggs Center).

Guest: Michael Steinbruck (The Boggs Center)

Agenda

Member Introductions:

Members and the new NJSNCC Leadership Team introduced themselves briefly following the 12:30 lunch/networking period. The Meeting started at 1:00.

Meeting Introduction:

Dr. Like opened the meeting by encouraging the NJSNCC to function as a Community of Practice, an organization that is responsive to and supportive of the diverse needs of the community it strives to serve. He encouraged the membership to review the NJSNCC brochure mission, vision, and description to determine if it effectively conveys the intent of the organization.

Financial Report:

Dr. Like reported that a fiscal sponsorship agreement with the Central Jersey Family Health Consortium is being developed with the help of Nick Montalto and several attorneys to ensure that all bases are covered to protect the NJSNCC and manage the finances appropriately. Jagdish Vasudev will release the organization's funds from United Way when an agreement is finalized and signed off on.

Conference Planning:

Membership discussion focused on potential locations for a future conference. The 2012 conference was held at the Middlesex County Fire Academy, a site used previously. The location is cost effective and provides facility for breakfast, breaks, and lunch. The Perth Amboy YMCA is another possible venue, but without the ability to accommodate meal service. Insurance associated with the conference may be free if the NJSNCC co-sponsors the event with an organization that carries appropriate coverage. The membership agreed that a conference will most likely have to be delayed until early next year.

NJSNCC Member Presentation:

Sheila L. Thorne, President and CEO of Multicultural Health Care Marketing Group (MHCMG), LLC, presented an overview of the work done by her organization. MHCMG is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promotion of health care for multicultural, multiracial, and multi-ethnic populations. The organization strives to address the disparity in the availability and provision of quality, comprehensive health care across diverse groups through the use of best practices in multicultural health care marketing. MHCMG uses a strategic approach that encompasses the health care professionals who provide service and the consumers who should utilize services, a “top down, bottom up” approach. Ms. Thorne shared information about the work she is doing with the OMH Regional Health Equity Council for Region II and important educational presentations she is making about the ACA and Health Insurance Marketplaces at Faith-based Institutions, Community Colleges, Town Hall Meetings, Community Forums and other venues in New Jersey and New York. Following her talk, there was a group discussion about ways in which the NJSNCC might be able to contribute to these efforts and several members expressed an interest in having Ms. Thorne speak to faith-based and other organizations with which they are connected.

Strategic Planning process for the NJSNCC:

Dr. Like asked the membership how the group would incorporate the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) in Health and Health Care. With the Affordable care Act (ACA) on the horizon, how can the NJSNCC incorporate the CLAS standards and the new health care guidelines into the organizational goals? Dr. Like would like the organization to develop a two year strategic plan.

Shelleyann Dacres and Michael Steinbruck of the Boggs Center provided an introduction to the **PATH Process** that will be used to support the NJSNCC’s strategic planning process. They explained that PATH is a process for collectively imagining the future. It allows a group to:

recognize the group's assets and organizational ties; look at where it is now; examine its strengths and weaknesses; identify who it might partner with to build capacity; and develop short and long term goals. Mr. Steinbruck and Ms. Dacres co-facilitated a group discussion and identified some initial foci of interest. The Leadership Team suggested that a follow-up meeting should be scheduled to build on today's meeting and employ the PATH Process to develop an action plan and short term goals. A meeting is tentatively set for September 30, 2013 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Boggs Center, Training Room B.

The meeting ended at 3:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Janet Gwiazda
NJSNCC Secretary